

New HIV infections (including AIDS cases), 2018-2019

Lowcountry Public Health Region includes eleven counties: Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, and Orangeburg.

HIV in the Lowcountry Public Health Region (PHR) For the two-year period 2018-2019, 385 people were newly diagnosed with HIV. This represents 25 percent of the total cases diagnosed in South Carolina.

By gender, 80 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases were men; 20 percent were among women.

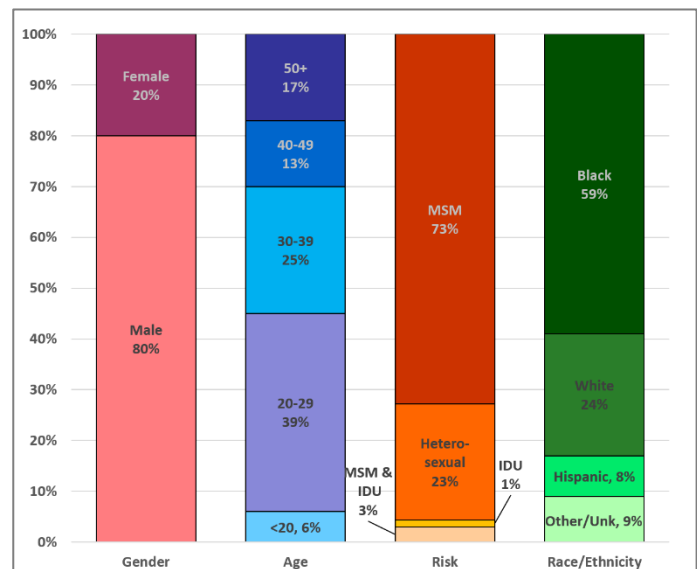
By age, the majority of new HIV/AIDS cases were among people ages 20-29 (39 percent), 25 percent were among people age 30-39, 13 percent were among people age 40-49, and 17 percent were age 50 and up. Six percent of new cases were under the age of 20.

By risk, among the 385 people who reported a risk, men who have sex with men (MSM) represent the largest proportion of recent infections (73 percent), followed by those indicating heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV (23 percent); one percent reported injecting drug use (IDU); and three percent were the combined risk of MSM and IDU.

By race/ethnicity, among people newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the Lowcountry PHR, 59 percent were African American; 24 percent were white; and eight percent were Hispanic. In 2018-2019, African Americans had a case rate 6.5 times greater than whites in the Lowcountry PHR.

Among women recently diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the Lowcountry PHR, most were African American (67 percent); 21 percent were White; and five percent were Hispanic. Of the 50 women reporting risk, 100 percent indicated heterosexual sex as their exposure to HIV; zero percent reported IDU.

Among men recently diagnosed in the Lowcountry PHR, 57 percent were African American; 25 percent were white; and nine percent were Hispanic. Of the 230 men reporting risk, 89 percent were men who have sex with men, six percent were exposed through heterosexual sex; one percent reported injecting drug use; three percent were both MSM and IDU.



Total People Living with HIV/AIDS through December 2019

As of December 2019, there were 4,926 residents of the Lowcountry Public Health Region living with a diagnosis of HIV (including AIDS). This represents 24 percent of the S.C. total. Of these, 3,565 were men and 1,361 were women. Most people (2,493) were ages 50 and over; 882 were ages 40-49; 931 were ages 30-39; 552 were ages 20-29; 68 were children and teens under 20 years of age.

As with new infections, African Americans are disproportionately impacted. Most of the people living with HIV in the Lowcountry Public Health Region were African American men (46 percent), 21 percent were White men, 23 percent were African American women and four percent were White women. Six percent of people living with HIV were Hispanic/Latino (men & women).

Of the 3,970 people living with HIV who reported a risk, 56 percent reported a risk of men who have sex with men; followed by men and women exposed through heterosexual sex (30 percent); injecting drug use (seven percent); and the combined risk of men who have sex with men and injecting drug use (four percent).

S.C. HIV Prevention Program Priority Populations

Care, treatment and prevention services for persons living with HIV/AIDS are a top priority for the State of South Carolina's HIV Program.

Among remaining priority populations for HIV prevention services:		
S.C. HIV Prevention Program Priority Populations ^(1,2)	2018/2019 Diagnosed HIV/AIDS Cases by Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (286 Total) *	People Living with HIV/AIDS, 2019 By Population % of Total Cases w/Risks Identified (4,049 Total)
2. African American MSM	40%	31%
3. African American WSM	12%	16%
4. African American MSW	3%	8%
5. White MSM	21%	18%
6. IDU	1%	7%
7. ♦Hispanic/Latino ³	11%	7%

***Caution: Due to small numbers, must interpret recent case proportions with caution.**

NOTES:

1. Populations: MSM = Men who have Sex with Men; IDU = Injecting Drug User; WSM = Women who have Sex with Men; MSW = Men who have Sex with Women.
2. Priority Populations are a subset of the Epi Profile data and are not directly comparable to incidence and prevalence counts/percentages.
3. Ethnicity, in and of itself, is not a risk factor for HIV; however, in the context of Priority Populations, Hispanic/Latino is included as a 'Risk' for reporting purposes.

Source: SCDHEC, STD/HIV Division 10/2020